

ER DUNN

TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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PUBLIC WORKS AND  
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SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
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HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS

January 24, 1994

Mr. James Quello  
Acting Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Quello:

Please find enclosed a letter from Viggo C. Bertelsen, Jr. a constituent from Washington state. Mr. Bertelsen is concerned about a proposed fee increase for a ship station radio/operators license.

I have forwarded Mr. Bertelsen's letter to you as I feel you are better able to answer his concerns. I look forward to responding to Mr. Bertelsen upon receiving input from your office.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

JENNIFER DUNN  
Member of Congress

JD: jkm

94-19  
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APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Page 1

**VIGGO C. BERTELSEN, JR.**  
**23825 S.E. 46TH PLACE**  
**ISSAQUAH, WASHINGTON 98027**

January 23, 1994

Secretary, FCC  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: Fee increase (doubling) for Ship Station Radio / Operator's License

Reference: "FCC plans to hike radio license fees for boaters" by Dave Workman, Editor,  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' Small Craft Advisory,  
Vol. 9 No. 2, Dec 1993.

The referenced article alerted me to the subject proposed fee increase. As a recreational boater, the existing fee of \$35.00 for a ship station license and/or radio operators license is over priced! At any higher level it is unconscionable!

Although enabled with strong legislation for management of the communication radio frequency spectrum and stations, the FCC does little, if anything, for the recreational boater except collect our money. The number of frequencies available to recreational boaters in the marine service is small when compared to commercial and governmental use frequencies and the marine service itself is very small when compared to other user frequency allocations. Further, the FCC does little to police the misuse of the assigned channels except for the occasional "off frequency" notice to operators of older VHF transceivers where such infractions are more likely. The use of improper radio procedures, call signs, channels, etc. provoke no discernable response or action by the FCC. The "CB" service is an undisciplined joke!

If the FCC is short of money there are at least two viable courses of action. 1. Cut costs (i.e. reduce the employees...at the very least those involved in the marine service who do not appear to be doing anything anyway!) and/or 2. cause those who are receiving FCC services to foot the bill (i.e. charge the cellular phone, industrial radio net, broadcasters, governmental units, etc.) for their fair share of the expense of doing what you do for them. Of course, you could examine what you do and eliminate all activity which does not add value and probably reap a significant savings.

One easy approach to reducing personnel cost is to eliminate all positions entitled "assistant (to) \_\_\_\_\_" and "deputy(to) \_\_\_\_\_" and require that the principal position holder do his or her job not delegate it to "assistants" or "deputies"! (Bureaucracy at its finest!). Of course, the people in those positions must go out the door to effect the cost reductions.

I urge you to abandon any thought of increased fees for any of the licenses currently required for recreational boaters to have and use radio and other electronic safety and navigation equipment. Any increases in fees would surely both reduce the availability and use of such equipment and/or make law breakers of many honest, safety conscious boaters.

Respectfully,



Copy to: Senator Slade Gorton, Representative Jennifer Dunn

E. M. D'AMATO  
NEW YORK

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3202

December 10, 1993

Congressional Liaison  
Federal Communications Commission  
2025 M Street, NW  
Room 6202  
Washington, D.C. 20554

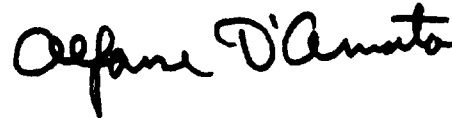
Dear Director:

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested.

PLEASE TRY TO RESPOND WITHIN 4 WEEKS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS REQUEST. YOUR FINDINGS AND VIEWS, IN DUPLICATE, ALONG WITH RETURN OF THIS MEMO PLUS ENCLOSURE, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,



Alfonse M. D'Amato  
United States Senator

AD:amr

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ALBANY, NY 12207  
(518) 472-4343

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Edward V. Weber  
60 Round Hill Road  
Poughkeepsie, N Y 12603  
18 November, 1993

Secretary of the FCC  
c/o Office of Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Gentlemen:

I just read that the FCC is considering adding another \$7.00 per year to the current \$35.00 license fee for Marine station licenses.

I am opposed to any increase in fees. VHF radios are an effective safety device because they provide a means of communication at times of problems. An increase of fees would discourage some boaters from having a radio thus reducing their ability to summon help in times of distress. The current fee is already well in excess of the cost of providing licenses with a reasonably efficient operation. The government should not be padding the general fund by extracting fees beyond costs.

Sincerely,



cc: Congressman H. Fish  
Senator A. D'Amato ←  
Senator P. Moynihan

JHEN

United States Senate

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 7, 1994

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94-19

Ms. Lauren Belvin  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Belvin:

Because of my desire to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, I would appreciate your consideration of the enclosed letter from Clyde Williams of Hallowell, Maine.

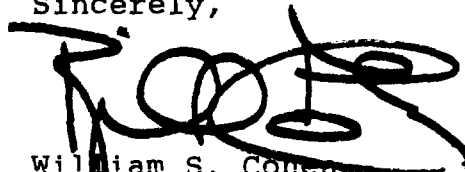
Please return your findings and views, ~~in duplicate form,~~  
along with the enclosed correspondence to:

Senator William S. Cohen  
Attention: Paulina Collins  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

  
William S. Cohen  
United States Senator

WSC/pmc  
Enclosure

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Clyde H. Williams  
21 Page Street  
Hallowell, Maine 04347-1418

1993 NOV 18 AM 8:51  
14 November 1993

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Office of the Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have recently learned that the FCC soon intends to propose a doubling of the fee currently charged to holders of VHF marine radio licenses. It is my opinion that this increase of a fee which was only recently imposed will have a **SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT** on boating safety. Many of us who are actively involved in providing boating safety information to the public consider the marine VHF radio to be **THE** most important piece of safety equipment on a vessel.

Until recent years, there was no fee charged for a Ship Station License which covered the radio equipment used by voluntarily equipped vessels. Even so, there was reluctance among many to mail the necessary application to the FCC to get a license. With the imposition of the current \$35.00 charge for a five-year license, it has become increasingly difficult to convince boaters, even some who have completed educational courses, that they should have their radio equipment legally licensed. A doubling of the fee at this time would certainly increase the number of boaters who are operating unlicensed radios, or who are going without this important piece of safety equipment.

As a teacher of marine electronics user courses, and one who has a keen interest in the proper use of marine VHF/FM radio, I must add that I perceive **NO DIRECT BENEFIT** provided by the Federal Communications Commission to voluntarily equipped Ship Station licensees. I share this view with many, many other boaters. An increase in the licensing fee can only be seen as an obstacle in getting all boaters legally licensed and all illegal users off marine channels.

Sincerely,

*Clyde H. Williams*

Copies: Sen Cohen  
Sen Mitchell

*Senator Cohen,  
This is another Federal  
rip-off which will impact  
mainly on pleasure boaters,  
C.H.W.*

EHLERS  
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(616) 451-8383

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(202) 225-3831

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2203**

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February 10, 1994

Lauren J. Belvin  
Director  
Legislative Affairs  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 808, 1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Friend:

Enclosed is correspondence I have received from one of my constituents, Mr. James C. Bodenner, who has requested the FCC's position on the proposed increase in marine radio license fees.

I ask that your office review his letter and send me your position on the matter cited above.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Vernon J. Ehlers*

Vernon J. Ehlers  
Member of Congress

VJE:md

DISTRICT OFFICE

Enclosure

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## ***o* Offices**

**James C. Bodenner M.S., J.D.**

January 24, 1994

FEB - 8 1994

Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers  
166 Federal Building  
110 Michigan Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Dear Congressman Ehlers:

The attached letter to the FCC outlines an issue of concern. I would greatly appreciate any information you have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
James C. Bodenner



# *Offices*

James C. Bodenner M.S., J.D.

January 24, 1994

Federal Communications Commission  
POB 1050  
Gettysburg, PA 17326

To whom it may concern:

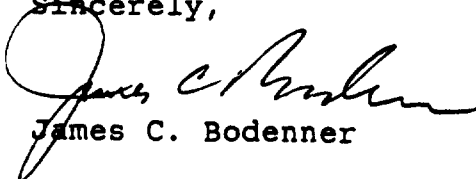
I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and friends of mine who have signed the attached form. All of us are volunteers involved regularly with an organization that provides boating safety education to the public. It is our understanding that the FCC is planning on increasing the fee to license marine radios from \$35 to \$70 for the five year license.

All of us are boat owners and see first hand the misuse of the marine radio. It is our opinion that we need to increase boater education and law enforcement to prevent misuse of the marine radio and misuse is very common! As boaters on Lake Michigan we have all been faced with situations where the marine radio was our only link to safety. In an emergency the radio saves lives we need to do everything we can to prevent misuse of this critical piece of equipment.

Raising the fee will only discourage boaters from licensing their radio or it will discourage boaters from buying the radio. It is our understanding that none of the additional fees will be used to further needed public education. We strongly urge you to reconsider your policy and either eliminate the proposed increase or use the increase to fund public boating education.

Please contact me with the FCC position on this matter.

Sincerely,



James C. Bodenner

CC: Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers  
166 Federal Building  
110 Michigan Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

The undersigned support the attached letter dated January 24, 1994 regarding the proposed increase in the for licensing of the marine radios.

[illegible]

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NOV 17 1993

FCC MAIL ROOM

**Edward L. Beakley**  
**386 Jay Lane**  
**Mountville, PA 17554**

Secretary of the FCC  
c/o Office of Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary:

I have been a recreational boater for ten years. The fees that have impacted this recreational pastime have been numerous during this period. I have just read that your office is contemplating a new fee on holders of VHF marine radio licenses. I believe this increase is poor judgment on the part of the Federal Communication Commission.

I believe instead of paying the increased fee many small boat owners will leave this necessary piece of equipment on shore. This will not only endanger their lives but also the lives of others because they do not have the proper safety equipment at the time of an emergency.

I would also be very interested in receiving a letter from you reviewing the additional services that I may expect by this increase in license fees.

Sincerely,

*Edward L. Beakley*

Edward L. Beakley

Gary C Schuller  
Foot of Spring St  
Peoria, IL 61603  
November 16, 1993

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NOV 18 1993

FCC MAIL ROOM

Secretary of the FCC  
c/o Office of Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

According to an article in REPORTS BOAT/U.S., your agency is contemplating a "user fee" for holders of a VHF marine radio license. This proposed fee is \$7.00. This in addition to the \$35.00 new/renewal fee. This "user fee" is a per year basis.

Is this just another way to "job" the supposed "rich" boaters or is there justification for this fee?

You know, of course, that you will probably drive more boaters to not license themselves at all, thereby, losing the \$35.00 for the radio all together. You know, as well as I do, that you cannot police this policy effectively. Why aggitate and aggravate the already overtaxed boating public?

If there is a reasonable and justifiable reason for this "user fee", I would appreciate a reply to this letter. If there is not a reasonable or justifiable reason for this "user fee", I would appreciate a reply to this letter. There are hundreds of boaters along the Illinois river that would like to know the answer.

Thank you.,

Sincerely,



RECE

NOV 1

FCC MAI

51

JENNIFER DUNN  
4 DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

1641 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7761

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PUBLIC WORKS AND  
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COMMITTEE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESS

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 24, 1994

Mr. James Quello  
Acting Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

94-19

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APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Quello:

Please find enclosed a letter from Dan Barr, a constituent from Washington state. Mr. Barr is concerned about the twenty day comment period on an Federal Communications Commission proposal to double radio license fees for boaters and other mariners. He feels it should be longer.

I have forwarded Mr. Barr's letter to you as I feel you are better able to answer his concerns. I look forward to responding to Mr. Barr upon receiving input from your office.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

JENNIFER DUNN  
Member of Congress

JD: jkm

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# NEWSLETTER

Recreational Boating Association of Washington

December, 1993

## NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

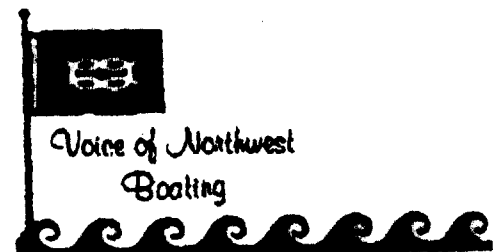
9 1994

In the Lookout, NBF's publication to all members advises of the FCC proposal to double radio license fees for boaters and other mariners (ship station license) from \$35 to \$70 for a five year license or \$105 for a ten year license. Ship station licenses are required on all vessels that carry a marine radio, a Radar, or an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (Epirb). CONGRESS MANDATED THE INCREASE. Congress also authorized the FCC to waive the increase if "such action would promote the public interest." Concerns have been raised that this fee increase will act as a disincentive for boaters and other non-compulsory radio equipped vessels. Failure to carry a marine radio aboard would be a major regression in boating safety. The FCC plans to release a notice of proposed rule making on the matter before the end of the year, but currently is only planning a 20 day comment period. Those wishing to comment should write at once to Secretary, FCC, 1919 M Street NW, Washington DC 20554. When the rulemaking is released, a docket number will be identified which if known, should be included in the letter. If this number is not known, the letter should clearly indicate that it refers to planned FCC regulatory fees. The FCC secretary's office can be contacted at (202) 632-6410.

### RECREATIONAL BOATING

ASSOCIATION of 206-  
WASHINGTON 762-  
P.O. BOX 9264 1903  
SEATTLE, WA 98109

Address Correction Requested



Senator Horton -

So many of us appreciate your results to get FCC fines made reasonable and not abusive.

This 20 day comment period is ridiculous. Marine publications are monthly and require 120 day comment periods. The Coast Guard has agreed. Also this notice should go out to Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. We need the FCC to communicate w/ ~~the~~ Coast Guard over voice, word and give time for dialog & citizen input. Please help. Dan Barr 285-1111

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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March 9, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 1919 M Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20554

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APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are urging you to use your authority to waive a proposed FCC licensing fee increase that is draped in good intentions — reducing the federal budget deficit — but may have unintended and fiscally disastrous consequences.

As you are obviously aware, the telecommunications section of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 required the FCC to impose user fees on a wide variety of its services. As a result, your agency is about to issue a notice of proposed rule-making on increasing the cost of an FCC license for boaters equipped with VHF radios from \$35 for 10 years to \$105 for 10 years -- a 300 percent jump.

At first glance, it would appear that a sizable license fee increase for VHF-equipped boats would generate substantial revenues. Unfortunately, of the estimated 10 million boats that are equipped with these radios, only 650,000 of them -- 6.5 percent -- are actually licensed. It is hard to believe that any more boaters would obtain licenses if the fee were to be increased; it is well within the realm of possibility to imagine *fewer* boaters obtaining licenses. With such a small number of boats licensed, the small revenue increase from the VHF licensing fee hike will be nearly cancelled out by the cost of implementing, administering, and enforcing it.

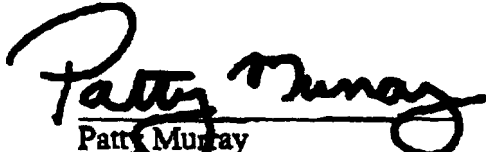
Mr. Chairman, aside from causing loud protests from boaters and boating groups, this proposal has drawn the opposition of the very agency charged with protecting our waters and regulating our boaters: the Coast Guard. In a letter to your agency earlier this month, Coast Guard Commandant J.W. Kime wrote, "The Coast Guard believes that waiver of the marine (ship) station license regulatory fee for vessels which carry radio equipment, but are not required to do so, would enhance maritime safety and promote the public interest. Therefore, I ask that the Commission waive the fee for such vessels."

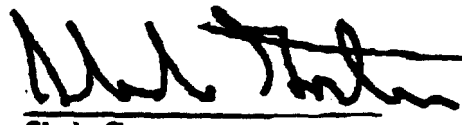
We agree with the Commandant and strongly believe this is a case where the FCC should use the authority granted to it by Congress under Sections 9(b)(3) and 9(d) of the Budget Act to waive this fee in the public interest.

It should also be noted that many inside the FCC are dubious of the wisdom of increasing the VHF licensing fee -- let alone regulating such licensing in the first place. The FCC legislative affairs office sent Congress a de-licensing proposal earlier this year which would put the Coast Guard in charge of regulating and monitoring frequencies on shipboard radios.

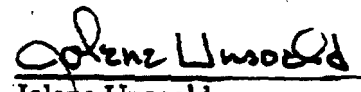
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Finally, it is important to point out that this fee increase would be imposed upon a group that already pays its fair share of Coast Guard and state taxes and fees. Reducing this nation's budget deficit and putting us on a path of fiscal responsibility is an honorable goal that we all share, but doing so on the backs of boaters who already shoulder their share of the burden -- with a proposal that seems likely to generate a negligible amount of revenue -- is a dubious way to do it.

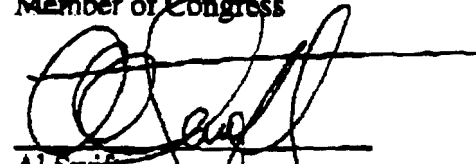
  
Patty Murray  
U.S. Senator

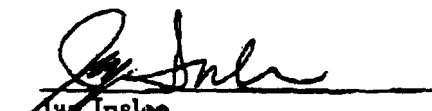
  
Slade Gorton  
U.S. Senator

  
Bob Packwood  
U.S. Senator

  
Jolene Unsoeld  
Member of Congress

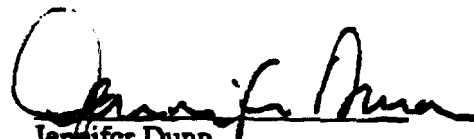
  
Norm Dicks  
Member of Congress

  
Al Swift  
Member of Congress

  
Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Kreidler  
Member of Congress

  
Elizabeth Furse  
Member of Congress

  
Jennifer Dunn  
Member of Congress



TIM HOLDEN  
6TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

147 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5546

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 28, 1994

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. James Quellow  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Honorable Donald W. Wurmser  
Sweitzer Road  
R.D. #5, Box 365  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Dear Mr. Quellow:

I am contacting you on behalf of the above named constituent regarding his concerns in reference to new FCC fees.

Enclosed please find a letter from Mr. Wurmser explaining this matter in greater detail. Any assistance you can provide me in responding to my constituent's request for help would be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to respond directly to my Reading district office at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

*Tim Holden*

TIM HOLDEN  
Member of Congress

TH/mb

Enclosure

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SPEED LETTER

TO

Cong. Tim Holden

FROM

CHESTNUT HILL FARM  
DONALD W. WUNDER  
46 SWITZER RD.  
SINKING SPRING, PA 19008

SUBJECT

Another Attack on Plain Americans

— FOLD NO. 9 or 10  
MESSAGE

Dear Congressman Holden: When will this insidious attack on our pocketbook ever stop?! A \$110 fee just to have a radio for safety in your boat? It should be free!! Please vote against any fees for the simple use of a radio in ones boat. (P.S. What/who dream up this stuff?)

DATE

3/18/84

SIGNED

Very Sincerely

Donald W. Wunder

REPLY

— FOLD FOR NO. 9

— FOLD FOR NO. 10

DATE

SIGNED

AMATO  
ORK

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111 W. HURON S  
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(716) 848-41

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3202

DMD  
Jen  
1088

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED March 3, 1994

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APR - 8 1994

TO: Congressional Liaison  
Federal Communication Commission  
2025 M Street, N.W.  
Room 6202  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FROM: Alfonse D'Amato  
United States Senator

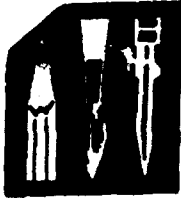
Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquires and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested.

PLEASE TRY TO RESPOND WITHIN 4 WEEKS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST. YOUR FINDINGS AND VIEWS, IN DUPLICATE, ALONG WITH RETURN OF THIS MEMO PLUS ENCLOSURE, WILL BE APPRECIATED.

Many thanks.

AD:bjja

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FAX: (716) 831-0036

Date: 3-1-94

Company Name: U.S. SENATOR ALFONSE M. D'AMATO

Contact Name:

Fax Number: 846-4113

Sender: RICHARD H. THOMPSON, 245-B KENNELL RD.  
BUFFALO (CHESTNUT) N.Y.  
14215

Description: ATTACHED FCC INCREASE, VHF RADIO

F.B.I. THESE RADIOS ARE USED FOR DISTRESS.

DO THEY WANT BOATERS TO GIVE UP THERE RADIOS

OR POSSIBILITY JUST FORGET THEY HAVE ONE.

Number of pages:

3

If there are any problems with this transmission, please call:

REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 11, 1994

Lauren J. Belzin  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 808  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Maurice D. Hinchey  
100A Federal Building  
Binghamton, New York 13901

Please respond to above address

B.H.F

Thus,  
at gr

Very Truly yours,

1

Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey  
M.C.

26th New York District.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OFFICE: Binghamton District Office

STAFF: Ari Rosenfeld

COMMERCIAL TEL. #:

FTS TEL. #:

3901

WORK PHONE:

V.A. CLAIM #:

LETTER:

CALLED: \*\*\*

TOWN MEETING:

office regarding the increase in the price of year. B.H.F. radios are a safety feature product making it costly, boating safety is being placed

ded ?

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94-19

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APR 18 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**CONSTITUENT INFORMATION FORM**

DATE: March 11, 1994 OFFICE: Binghamton District Office  
SALUTATION: Dear Mr. Smith STAFF: Ari Rosenfeld  
NAME: Carlton Smith COMMERCIAL TEL. #: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: 31 Panorama Drive FTS TEL. #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Binghamton, New York 13901  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
S.S. #: \_\_\_\_\_ V.A. CLAIM #: \_\_\_\_\_

NATURE OF CONTACT: VISITED: \_\_\_\_\_ LETTER: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLED: \*\*\*  
TOUR WITH MDH: \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATURE OF CASE/REQUEST/COMMENT:**

Our constituent, Mr. Smith, contacted our office regarding the increase in the price of 3.H.F. radios, from the price of \$35 to \$110 a year. B.H.F. radios are a safety feature product. Thus, by raising the price of this product and making it costly, boating safety is being placed at greater risk.

Is there anyway this policy will be rescinded ?

JCHHRAN  
MISSISSIPPI

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2402

*ond*  
*fees*  
*1345*

COMMITTEE ON  
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AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON  
RULES AND  
ADMINISTRATION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

March 16, 1994

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APR - 8 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*94-19*

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
The Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence sent to me by  
Mr. Lawson McClellan.

I would appreciate your providing me with a response to  
the issues raised in Mr. McClellan's letter.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



THAD COCHRAN  
United States Senator

TC/jwm  
Enclosure

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*2*

**LAWSON McCLELLAN**

94 MAR 16 AM 8: 17

*Route 2, Box 298*

*Guntown, MS 38849*

*601-869-2230*

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*Senator Thad Cochran*

*United States Senate*

*Washington, D.C. 20510*

*Senator Trent Lott*

*United States Senate*

*Washington, D.C. 20510*

*Representative Jamie Whitten*

*United States House of Representatives*

*Washington, D.C. 20510*

*Dear Gentlemen:*

*It has been brought to my attention that the Federal Communications*

*Commission is considering placing very high licensing fees on recreational*



*boaters for the use of 'marine' radios.*

*My experience over the past years has been that in our part of the country, there is practically no use of these radios for any communication except that that directly impacts the navigation of the Tombigbee Waterway or for safety, such as towing requests.*

*I would venture to guess now that very few of these are licensed now.*

*Increasing the fees on these is not going to decrease this problem, and the FCC surely does not have the funds or manpower to enforce these requirements.*

*This however is not the reason I object to this proposed licensing increase.*

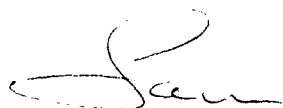
*The only connection most boaters have with help is via these 'marine' radios.*

*One of the worst problems with water sports now is safety, and the ability for the average boater to have communications with emergency help for themselves or others should be the prime emphasis of any regulations and this proposed increase will surely not serve the public whose welfare it is intended to.*

*I will appreciate any effort you can give towards keeping this increase from taking place.*

*Thank you for your help every time I have asked.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lawson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Lawson McClellan*